

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 9404/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR CO XM

SUBJECT: LA FONMINS CONFERENCE: ROUNDUP OF DEVELOPMENTS

NOV 16

REF: BOGOTA 9377 AND 9335

LIMA FOR USDEL TO OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: AS THE LATIN AMERICAN FONMINS MTG DRAWS TO A CLOSE THE ONLY REMAINING POINTS OF CONTENTION ARE THE TITLE AND PREAMBLE OF THE DECLARATION TO BE RELEASED. THE TEXT, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, IS BASICALLY THAT OF THE PRELIMINARY DOCUMENT. THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY ITS MODERATION, AND BUSINESS HAS PROCEEDED IN A PROFESSIONAL, DISPASSIONATE AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER. THE EMBASSY INCLUDES BELOW SOME IMPRESSIONISTIC COMMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SOME OF THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE AS WELL AS THEIR POSITIONS ON SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY

1. AS OF THE MORNING OF NOV 16, THE ONLY REMAINING POINTS OF CONTENTION AT THE LATIN AMERICAN FONMINS CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO SOME OF OUR SOURCES, ARE THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT AND SOME WORDS IN THE PREAMBLE.

CALVANI OF VENEZUELA AND OTHERS DO NOT WISH TO CALL THE
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DOCUMENT THE DECLARATION OF BOOTA AS THEY DO NOT WANT TO GIVE

THE DOCUMENT THE STATUS OF A GREAT AND IMMUTABLE DECLARATION BUT WISH TO EMPHASIZE ITS TENTATIVE NATURE. THE COLOMBIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE PUSHING FOR THE ABOVE TITLE AND ALSO FOR A FORMAL PREAMBLE. (ONE WAG HAS SUGGESTED THE TITLE "DECLARATION OF THE CLUB MILITAR" AFTER THE SITE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE NATURE OF MANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED.)

2. AT A DINNER GIVEN BY COLOMBIAN FONMIN VAZQUEZ FOR THE DELEGATES ON NOV 15, PERUVIAN FONMIN EXPRESSED TO THE CHARGE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE DOCUMENT AS IT IS NOW WORDED. HE APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO INSERT STRONGER LANGUAGE ON ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT. AS MATTERS STOOD ON THE MORNING OF NOV 16, THE FONMINS SEEMED AGREED NOT TO MAKE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT WE TRANSMITTED BY BOGOTA 9335. THEY ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE BE A COMPREHENSIVE PREAMBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MEXICAN AND ONE OR TWO DELEGATES FROM THE CARIBBEAN TOLD THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ASSUME THE CONFERENCE WOULD RUBBER STAMP THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY MTG.

3. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPRESSIONISTIC NATURE OF THE COMMENTS THAT FOLLOW WHICH ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE SOME OF THE FLAVOR OF THE CONFERENCE AND TO PROVIDE A PICTURE OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL DELEGATES AND THE POSITIONS THEY ASSUMED DURING THE CONFERENCE.

4. ALTHOUGH OBSERVERS OF THE CONFERENCE TEND TO DESCRIBE PARTICIPANTS AS EITHER RADICAL OR MODERATE, THE TERM RADICAL SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN ITS NORMAL EXTREME SENSE. AT NO TIME DID ANY OF THE DELEGATES DIRECTLY ATTACK THE US AND, THE NARROW GAP BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE "RADICALS" AND "MODERATES" AND THE RELATIVE HARMONY OF THE MTG WERE TWO OF ITS PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS. WHILE THE MORE "RADICAL" DELEGATIONS-MEXICO, PERU AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN-ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC WITH THE MODERATE TONE OF THE DOCUMENT, THE MORE CONSERVATIVE PARTICIPANTS, BRQZIL, CHILE, URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY, ARE PLEASED THAT THEY ACHIEVED WHAT THEY REGARD AS A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE OUTCOME.

5. COLOMBIA IS QUITE CONTENT WITH THE PROFESSIONAL DIS-
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PASSIONATE, AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE HAS PROGRESSED. ONE OF THE INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE WAS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TWO SILVER-HAIRED LAME DUCK FONMINS, VAZQUEZ AND CALVANI, WHO DOMINATED THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXCHANGED FLOWERY COMPLIMENTS.

6. MEXICO EMERGED AS THE LEADER OF THE MORE RADICAL GROUP AT THE CONFERENCE AND RABASA WAS PARTICULARLY

PERSUASIVE AND SKILLFUL. ON THE QUESTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, PANAMA WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT A WEAKER STATEMENT BUT MEXICO PUSHED SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE STRONGER WORDING WHICH WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED.

7. BRAZIL, ON THE OTHER HAND, CLEARLY EMERGED AS THE LEADER OF THE MORE CONSERVATIVE PARTICIPANTS, AND AMBASSADOR MACIEL EARNED THE RESPECT OF ALL WITH A BILLIANT PERFORMANCE WHICH COMBINED SOUND STAFF WORK WITH NEGOTIATING ABILITY OF A HIGHER ORDER.

8. THE VENEZUELAN FREQUENTLY SUPPORTED THE MEXICAN POSITION AND PUSHED HARD ON THE QUESTION OF INCLUDING CUBA ON THE AGENDA.

9. PERUVIAN FONMIN DE LA FLOR VALLE DID NOT MAKE A PARTICULARLY DYNAMIC IMPRESSION ALTHOUGH HE DID WEAR WELL. HE HAVE THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MORE RADICAL GROUP, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED HE MIGHT DO JUST THAT WHEN THE CONFERENCE BEGAN. HE ALSO SEEMED PREOCCUPIED

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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WITH OTHER MATTERS.

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE, HE SAID THAT HE HAD JUST READ THAT THE US HAD CUT OFF IDB CREDITS TO PERU AND THAT THIS WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR PERU

TO ASSUME A MODERATE STANCE. DE LA FLOR VALLE DID NOT ATTRACT A GROUP OF SATELLITE MINISTERS AND AMBASSADORS ABOUT HIM THE WAY THAT THE BRAZILIAN AND THE MEXICAN SEEMED ABLE TO DO.

10. THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION TOOK A DISTINCTIVE BACK SEAT AT THE PROCEEDINGS AND APPEARED GENERALLY DISGRUNTLED. THEIR CHARACTERISTIC COMBINATION OF CYNICISM AND CONDESCENSION DID NOT WORK WELL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

11. SOME OF THE REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN ONLY A VERY MARGINAL SENSE. NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR, FOR INSTANCE, NEVER MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT AT ALL AND URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY, REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADORS DID NOT HAVE THE RANK TO MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD AND SIMPLY VOTED WITH THE BRAZILIANS. CHILE ALSO BACKED BRAZIL ALL THE WAY.

12. FONMIN JOSE LUCIO PAREDES OF ECUADOR WAS VERY MODERATE AND HELPFUL AND DID NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE ANY PROBLEMS FOR THE U.S. IT WAS INDICATIVE OF HIS ATTITUDE THAT NO CONFRONTATION AROSE OVER THE 200-MILE LIMIT.
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13. GUAYANESE FONMIN S.S. RAMPHAL MADE AN EXCELLENT SPEECH ON THE PROBLEMS OF A SMALL COUNTRY IN DEALING WITH THE US WHICH WHILE CRITICAL WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE STATEMENT.

14. FONMIN FACCIO OF COSTA RICA INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ON THE "FREE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA TO LIVE UNDER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT" BUT GRACIOUSLY WITHDREW HIS RESOLUTION WHEN ITS EMBARRASSING IMPLICATIONS WERE EXPLAINED TO HIM. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS GAME PLAYING AND THAT FACCIO NEVER INTENDED TO PURSUE HIS RESOLUTION.

15. FONMIN BATRES OF HONDURAS LEFT THE CONFERENCE EARLY TO ATTEND A PRIVATE MTG OF THE PRESIDENTS OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THEIR BORDER PROBLEM.

16 THE GUATEMALAN FONMIN JORGE ARENALES CATALAN PROVED HELPFUL ON THE PANAMA AND CUBAN QUESTIONS BUT UNFORTUNATELY IN THIS PROCESS EARNED HIMSELF THE REPUTATION OF A COMPLETE REACTIONARY AND THEREBY LOST MUCH OF HIS EFFECTIVENESS.

17. AN INTERESTING HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS AN ADDRESS BY GALO PLAZA IN WHICH HE COMPLIMENTED VAZQUEZ ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE HAS PROGRESSED AND ANALYZED FOR THE DELEGATES THE CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE EMPHASIZED THE SECRETARY'S BRILLIANCE AND PRESTIGE AND SAID THAT A MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR WAS HIS INFLUENCE WITH CONGRESS. GALO PLAZA SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS INFLUENCE THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD BE MADE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF LA.

18. IT HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED THAT MEXICO WILL BE SITE

OF THE MEETING WITH KISSINGER.
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